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## Book Reviews

*Cicero im Wandel der Jahrhunderte.* By TH. ZIELINSKI. Leipzig:  
B. G. Teubner, 1908. Pp. viii. + 453.

Professor Zielinski's brilliant sketch of the influence exerted by Cicero on the thought of subsequent ages—a work first published in 1897—is here enlarged to thrice its former size. The additions are quite equal to the original portions in worth and interest. The author has few rivals as regards keenness of insight and lucidity of exposition. As a result, his treatment of a difficult theme in its many ramifications is both illuminating and plausible.

The first of the sections of any considerable length is an analysis of Cicero's oratorical and philosophical writings. The *De officiis* receives special attention, and the whole passage serves as a valuable propaedeutic to the chapters which immediately succeed it on the history of early Christian doctrine (pp. 11-109). These chapters are themselves enlarged to include a detailed analysis of Lactantius' *Institutiones Divinae* and Ambrose's *De officiis*, as well as a systematic statement of the principles involved in the Pelagian controversy (pp. 119-64). This new matter brings out with great clearness the extent to which Ambrose, in the building up of his system of Christian Ethics, was indebted to Cicero, as well as the inevitableness of the clash between the Christian doctrines of natural depravity and the all-sufficiency of faith and the corresponding Ciceronian tenets, which were those of Pelagius. The study of Cicero's influence on Voltaire is in this edition prefaced by a long excursus on the chief exponents of the English deistic philosophy (pp. 260-304).

Perhaps no part of the new portion of this work is more delightful in point of style and suggestiveness than the pages in which our author presents us with a searching analysis of the personality of Cicero (pp. 172-210). Certainly no part will better repay the perusal of the lover of Cicero. Here the chief emphasis is laid on Cicero's almost total lack of an intuitive sense for facts, and consequent tendency to assign in his imagination to the leading men of his day parts which they were but ill-qualified, and not at all minded, to play. Perhaps we should hardly be inclined to go all the way with our author as he applies his plausible theory to the successive enigmas of Cicero's conduct; yet we close the chapters with a feeling that their total effect is little short of revolutionary, and that the ground has been cut out from under the feet of any future Drumann or Mommsen.

Our author's fondness for the psychological method of approach is again apparent in a long passage on the psychology of the periodical sentence (pp. 27 ff.). This is the era when the psychologist and the economist are disporting themselves by dressing the facts of history in new and startling guise—a process which the judicious may well view with alarm. At such a critical time, the appearance of

a work exhibiting such a sane and temperate application of the new methods as does this book of Professor Zielinski's is beyond measure reassuring.

The book is printed with that almost excessive regard for the reader's eyesight by which the modern German printers seem to be trying to atone for generations of neglect. If copies of it could be placed generally in the hands of Latin teachers, it could not fail to promote that increase in breadth of view and freshness—one might almost say fervor—of spirit which the friends of classical training have come to feel as a vital need.

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*Lucretius, De Rerum Natura.* By WILLIAM A. MERRILL. American Book Company, 1907.

The editor acknowledges his indebtedness to his great predecessors, to Lachmann, to Munro, to Giussani, and others, and the impression grows as one reads this edition that little or nothing in all the immense mass of literature on Lucretius has escaped his notice. The book has been long in making and is ambitious in its scope. There are notes on the language, on the text, on the philosophy, and on the poem as a piece of literature, but those dealing with language are the most frequent, and they are very detailed. The text has been treated conservatively and is on the whole reliable.

On the explanatory side the commentary is less satisfactory. Neither the philosophy of Lucretius nor his literary excellence has been adequately discussed or illustrated. There is still room for an edition which would furnish a thorough-going exposition of Lucretius' science, based on an easy familiarity with ancient philosophy and a fairly comprehensive grasp of the teachings of modern science. There should go with this an appreciation of the great literary value of the poem. This is a large demand, I am aware, but to gain it we might well dispense with the many pages of repetitive notes on linguistic and textual questions found in the conventional commentary. Why is it necessary that each new edition of a classical author should go on repeating the notes of his predecessors? The cumulative commentary may be necessary in a school textbook, but in an edition meant for scholars, why keep threshing over grain already well winnowed? There is new material in this edition and good material too, but why should it be necessary to read 800 pages to get it? Lachmann's work was firsthand, Munro had a fair field, Brieger's very perversity may be a recommendation, and Giussani contributes a special and an original attitude of mind toward Lucretius. What we want now is someone who has digested these editions to give us an appreciative exposition of the *De Rerum Natura* so that the poem may make its proper appeal to the scientist, the psychologist, the sociologist, and the man of letters.

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